



Lakeside Bulletin

**The weekly Bulletin of the Catholic Parishes of
Boolaroo, Warners Bay and Booragul**

Our Lady Help of Christians - 84 Main Road, Speers Point

St Mary's - 2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

St Michael the Archangel - 46 Ranclaud Street, Booragul



We acknowledge the Awabakal people - the traditional custodians of this place

SUNDAY, 21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

PARISH TEAM

Emergencies

PH: 0493 969 362

Parish Priest

Fr Darryl Mackie

darryl.mackie@mn.catholic.org.au

0409611 949

Assistant Priests

Fr Paul Kamau CSSP

paul.kamau@mn.catholic.org.au

Fr Peter Njau CSSP

peter.njau@mn.catholic.org.au

Fr John Purnell

john.purnell@mn.catholic.org.au

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

7 Milson Street, Charlestown

Phone: 4943 4153

Maryanne Barry

Vimal Valiyaveetil

Bridget Voigt

Rosanna Suckling

Email:

stmarythecross@mn.catholic.org.au

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 9:00am - 3:00pm

Website:

www.boolarocatholicchurch.com

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Our Lady Help, Boolaroo - Sat 5:30pm

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Sun 9:00am

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Sun 6:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

St Michael's, Booragul - Tue 9:00am

Our Lady Help, Boolaroo - Wed no mass

St Mary's, Warners Bay - Thu no mass

RECONCILIATION

5:00-5:15pm Saturday

Our Lady Help of Christians Church

BAPTISMS & SACRAMENTS

Booking/Enrolment via Parish Website

Baptisms celebrated most Sundays.

MARRIAGE

Celebrated by arrangement with at least 3 months notice.

Contact the Parish Office

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

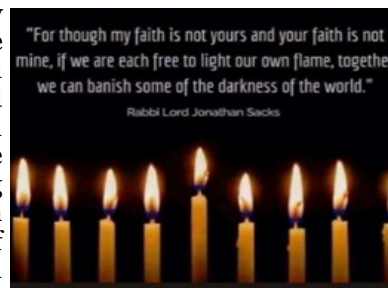
(RCIA) Parish Office 4943 4153



Dear Parish Family,

Emmanuel ...God with us!

Last Sunday as we lit our third candle, the Rose candle symbolising joy, our Jewish brothers and sisters were lighting the first candle on the Menorah as they began the Feast of Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights. Hannukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem about two hundred years before the birth of Jesus. After a military victory, a miracle occurred where a single day's oil miraculously burned for eight days in the Temple.... hence the Menorah has eight candles. It is a joyful celebration usually for families to gather and to celebrate, somewhat like the Jewish version of Christmas! It's been a sad week after the tragic shooting at Bondi Beach. Having worked closely with Jewish communities in the hospital, I know the important meaning of this feast day. Jesus even celebrates it in John Gospel (10:22). Amongst the tragedy we also saw the bravery of many people. Rabbi Jeffrey, a friend who was supporting those wounded and their families, sent me this which was from one of his teachers. By Sunday, the last candle will be lit on the menorah, may it be a reminder of the light that brightens our darkest moments - God with us! As we gather this weekend, we keep in our prayers those who have died, those who are injured, those who took a brave stand and for those hurting at this time.



In this final week of Advent, we light candle number four – representing love! God's love is about to be revealed. Isaiah our Advent prophet is again the focus of our first reading. War was on the horizon and Ahaz, the king asks Isaiah for a sign, whether he should ally with a neighbouring country and wipe out the hostile neighbour or not. Isaiah speaks to the sign that of a woman will be with child in the future and that this is a reminder not to give up hope that God is with us. But alas the king refuses to believe and Israel falls.

Our Gospel focuses on the birth of Jesus with the Advent figures of Mary and Joseph. Matthew when writing the Gospel wanted to go back to where it all began and highlight that both Mary and Joseph were followers of the Law of Moses. Mary shows this with her brave yes and the first thing we learn about Joseph is he focussed his life on living according to God's law. Have you ever thought about what would have happened if Joseph didn't say yes! Let's face it, Joseph probably had reservations about being the guardian of the Son of God – it's a pretty big ask! Maybe the thought of divorcing was because he thought someone else could do a better job? The dream was to change everything, assured that God is with us Joseph moved past his fears and embraced Mary, Jesus and the will of God. A great model for all during these times of uncertainty.

As we enter this fourth week of Advent, we build on the Advent themes that from hope, peace and joy grows love. What areas of my life need God's healing love the most? How can I bring love to others this Christmas? As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the love we find in each other and in Jesus Christ.

This week, many families will gather with us to celebrate Christmas. The Diocese has reminded us that the Christmas story is our invitation to reach out to others and to call our community gatherings – a place to call home. It is an opportune time to invite friends, families and neighbours to be part of our family. Many people will be humbled by your invitation. This is the start of a journey, and it begins with an invitation.... who will you invite? Happy Advent everyone!

Fr Darryl Mackie
Parish Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Peter Grew, Del Grew, Marie Starkey

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ: Jo Turner, Robyn Williams, Helen Sligar, Terry Clancy, Leslie Henry, Andrew Regan, Eileen Brooks, Vince Abdilla, Paul Tobin, Margaret Ryan, Mark Saesar, John Osborne, Yvonne Selby, Andrew Garvie, Ariane Hampton, Bernadette Gill, Patricia Neilson, Peter O'Neil, Eoin O'Connor, Brian Coogans, Pat Casey, Ann Moore, Rianna MacKaway, Joan Bain, Eva Newton, Billy Eckersley, Andrew Carr, Lewis Carr, Leah Scott, Darren Heaton, Glenda Noble, Keely Heaton, Marie Ryan, Greham Taylor, Nancy Tooney, Joy Dixon, Pat, Enid, Rebecca, Riley, Dot and Adrian Van Bellan.

Please contact the office once a person is well again.

Sunday 21 December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

First Reading (Isaiah 7: 10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23: 1-6. R. see vv 7. 10)

(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading (Romans 1: 1-7)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You

are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 1: 23)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 1: 18-24)

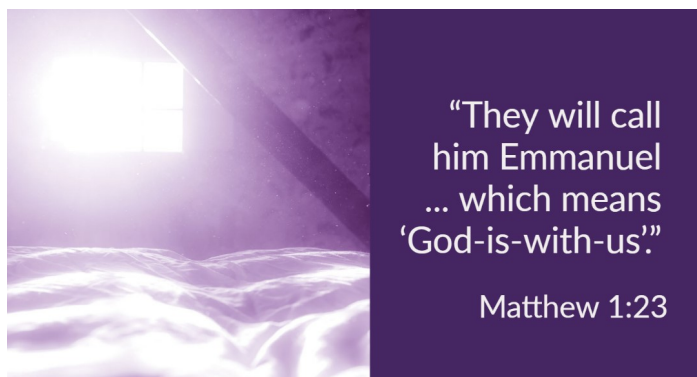
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Universal Prayer
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A
Sunday, 21 December 2025

Presider: Dear friends, with the confidence of the Virgin Mary, let us bring our prayers to the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church may be united as one in God's promise of salvation.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That conflict and war will be silenced and people of all nations may live in secure peace.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That like the Virgin Mary, all Christians will have the grace of certain trust in God.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will remember the poor and marginalised amid our festive celebrations.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick and housebound will be granted relief and healing, especially those in our parish bulletin.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will be graced with the King of Glory, especially Peter Grew, Del Grew and Marie Starkey whose anniversaries occur during this time.

(pause) In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: Lord God, we graciously wait for the arrival of the Son of David. Hear our prayers, and grant us the confidence to embrace Christ's coming as God-with-us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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Volunteers for Masses

We are looking for Readers and Eucharist Ministers for each of our Christmas and weekend masses until 12 January 2025.

If you would like to be added as a new reader, please contact the office by 5 January 2026.

Our formal reading roster will be emailed out and will begin from 18 January 2026.

If you could contact the office via email or phone if you are able to help in any way.

Readers Roster

20 Dec - 21 Dec

Sat 5:30pm

June Fava
Pat Davey

Sun 9:00am

Brad Fuller
Cheryl Thomas
Penny Bannister

Sun 6:00pm

Kim Smith
Suzanne Kay
Andrea Matulova

Mass Collection - Thank you

First Collection supports our priests:

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014920

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*

Second Collection supports our parish:

Boolaroo

BSB: 066 739

Account Number: 100014918

Account Name: CBA

Reference: *Your Surname.*



The tragic and targeted attack on the Jewish community at Bondi Beach, as they gathered to begin their celebrations of the religious festival of Hanukkah, has shocked and saddened us all. Such hatred and violence have no place in our community.

We stand in solidarity and support for all in the Jewish community. I call for all to pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters, for those killed, those injured and all those impacted by these traumatic events.

I give deep thanks to the brave first responders and our emergency services.

While we as Christians were lighting candles on our Advent wreaths and celebrating Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the Jewish community were lighting candles to begin their celebration of Hanukkah, an occasion that should have been a joyful gathering.

As we reflect at this time – a time when in the Christian community we are preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth, a birth into a Jewish family – I am reminded this was God's choice for his Son and God does not do things without good reason.

Together, we must live in mutual respect.

I know our leaders and governments will do all in their power at this difficult time to ensure that all Australians, and particularly Jewish Australians, can go about their daily lives without fear.

Let us pray together for peace: O God, creator of the world, who first revealed your love and salvation for humankind in and through the Jewish community, and who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Amen.

With every blessing.
Bishop Michael Kennedy

LAKESIDE

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

Christmas Eve	5:30pm	St Mary's Warners Bay
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Christmas Eve	6:00pm	St Joseph's Toronto
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Christmas Eve	6:00pm	Morisset Showground
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Christmas Eve	7:00pm	Our Lady Help Boolaroo
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Christmas Day	8:00am	St Michael's Booragul
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Christmas Day	9:00am	St Mary's Warners Bay
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Christmas Day	9:00am	St Joseph's Toronto
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Christmas Day	9:30am	St John Vianney Morisset
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LATEST NEWS FROM OUR SAFEGUARDING PROMOTERS 21 DECEMBER 2025

Christmas, a season steeped in traditions and festivity, serves as a poignant example of communities coming together to look after the vulnerable. It's a time when the spirit of generosity and compassion takes centre stage, reminding us of our shared responsibility to safeguard those in need.

Charitable initiatives during the Christmas season play a pivotal role in addressing the vulnerabilities that many individuals and families face, specifically those who may be struggling financially or emotionally. The festive atmosphere becomes a backdrop for acts of kindness, highlighting the true essence of Christ's message to love one another.

In Australia, there are over 60,000 registered charities which support many causes such as health, education, environment, animal welfare, religion, culture, reconciliation, human rights and the vulnerable. Charity volunteers number over 500,000.

It is these volunteers who become the unsung heroes of the Christmas season, dedicating their time and effort to connect with the marginalised through a spirit that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.

Individuals, too, play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community and support. Many take it upon themselves to reach out to neighbours, friends, or colleagues who may be experiencing hardship.

In a world that can sometimes feel divided, Christmas becomes a unifying force, a reminder that, regardless of our differences, we are all interconnected and responsible for each other's well-being. Through these collective efforts, Christmas becomes a beacon of hope, warmth, and inclusivity for all.

The Safeguarding Team extends best wishes to all parishioners and to our wider community for a happy and holy Christmas and reminds all to help and support where able.

PLACES TO CALL IF YOU NEED HELP	
LIFELINE 13 11 14	BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 4636
1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732	HEADSPACE 1800 650 890
MINDSPOT 1800 61 44 34	KIDS HELPLINE 1800 55 1800
NATIONAL DEBT HELPLINE 1800 007 007	NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE 1800 020 080

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH HUB OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM
25 DECEMBER 2025 TIL
4 JANUARY 2026.
YOU WILL STILL BE ABLE
TO CONTACT US VIA EMAIL.**

**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Mary's Primary School K-6

2 Bayview Street, Warners Bay

Ph: 02 4948 8770

E: admin@warnersbay.catholic.edu.au

W: www.warnersbay.catholic.edu.au/

Principal: Liz Starling

St Paul's Catholic College 7-12

70 Primrose Street, Booragul

P: 02 4958 6711

E: admin@booragul.catholic.edu.au

W: www.booragul.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Nick Wickham

St Mary's Catholic College 7-12

47-49 Pacific Highway, Gateshead

P: 02 4944 4800

E: admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

W: www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Brett Donohoe

PARISH GROUPS

Real Women

Sue Campbell 0417 091 255

Ladies Day

June Fava 4946 8415

Gwen Tompsett 4956 9596

Finance Committee

TBA,

Meeting Room, Warners Bay

Parish Council Meeting

TBA

Promotion of Safeguarding

Contact Maryanne, Joy, Peta or Nathan
Via the office

Baptism Team

Meetings 1st Tuesday monthly,
7.00 pm, Meeting Room Warners Bay

St Vincent de Paul Warners Bay

Meetings Wednesdays fortnightly,
Meeting Room, Warners Bay

Membership enquiries to:

Peter Deed 0419 106 519

St Vincent de Paul Booragul

Meetings 4th Thursday monthly,
1pm, Meeting Room, Booragul Hall

All new members welcome

Steve Barnett 0409 917 995

CATHOLIC CARE

Phone: 02 4979 1120 in Newcastle

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